

submission of proper terminal disclaimers; and withdrew the rejection of Claims 60-70 over the Back et al. reference as moot based on Applicant's cancellation of these claims.

In paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 35-49 and 56-57 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner noted, “[i]t is not seen as to where, in the specification, support lies for the use of sodium carbonate, bicarbonate and potassium carbonate and bicarbonate.”

In response, although Applicants disagree with the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have amended Claims 35, 38, 40, 43, 45, 47, 49 and 56-57 to replace the recitation to “sodium carbonate, bicarbonate, potassium carbonate and potassium bicarbonate” to read “sodium hydroxyformate, sodium dihydroxyformate, potassium hydroxyformate and potassium dihydroxyformate.” Support for the amendment can be found in the originally filed specification. See, for example, page 6, line 11 and page 10, lines 1-11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection is overcome. Applicants note for the record that the terms “carbonate” and “bicarbonate” are synonymous with “hydroxyformate” and “dihydroxyformate,” respectively.

In paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 35-49, 56-58 and 71 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for

failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

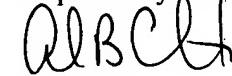
In response, although Applicant disagrees with the rejection, Applicant has amended Claims 35, 38, 40, 43, 45, 47, 49 and 56-57 as suggested by the Examiner. Additionally, Applicant has rewritten Claim 71 in independent form so that it no longer depends from a claim that has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Section 112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph rejection is overcome.

Applicant notes for the record that in paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that Claims 50-55, 59, 72-73 and 75-80 are allowed.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the present pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any still outstanding matters.

Respectfully submitted,



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